



Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation

Board of Trustees Meeting Recap: July 13, 2026

Board of Trustees (BOT) Chair N. Kathryn Brigham called the meeting to order at 9 a.m. A quorum of eight was verified with Treasurer Raymond Huesties out on personal leave.

New Business

2026-2027 Board Priority Implementation Plan (26-039): The BOT passed its 2026-2027 Board Priority Implementation Plan stating a list of priorities with the intent of setting a clear focus during its term. The BOT had previously approved 38 priorities as well as four core priorities that are foundational to the organizational improvements the BOT would like to see. Those core priorities are West Wing transformation, change management training, Human Resources transformation and leveraging health care economic opportunities for third-party billing.

Executive Director Information

The BOT approved a \$525 sponsorship request to provide lunch for 30 elders at the Nez Perce Culture Boat Tour on July 31.

The BOT approved General Council Chairman Lindsey X. Watchman to attend the Northwestern Division change of command ceremony for the Portland District in honor of outgoing commander Col. Larry D. Caswell Jr., and incoming commander Col. Brendan J. McEvoy on July 20 in Portland.

The BOT approved Intergovernmental Affairs Coordinator Audie Huber to consult with the Washington State Department of Transportation (WSDOT) regarding the replacement of the Hood River-White Salmon Interstate Bridge connecting Hood River County, Oregon, and Klickitat County, Washington. The project is to improve multimodal transportation of people and goods across the Columbia River but is expected to have significant adverse impact on the environment.

The BOT approved pertinent Department of Natural Resources (DNR) staff to submit comments or participate in a government-to-government meeting with the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Gary Diridone on July 21 regarding the Powder Valley Water Control District (PVWCD) Infrastructure Modernization Project Draft Watershed Plan-Environmental Assessment in North Powder, Oregon. The project is to improve agricultural water management by making irrigation water delivery more reliable and efficient to agricultural lands within the PVWCD. DNR staff are also to report back to the BOT.

The BOT approved pertinent DNR staff to provide comments for a proposed change of recreation fees at certain sites across the Malheur National Forest and report back to the BOT.

The BOT approved pertinent DNR staff to participate in consultation with the WSDOT for a proposed WSDOT Bingen maintenance facility truck washing building in Bingen, Washington. The project is expected to improve vehicle washing at the facility by allowing wash water to be pumped directly to the city's sanitary sewer. The consultation request is for earthwork potentially affecting cultural resources.

The BOT approved a motion to schedule a meeting with Carina Miller of Energy Trust Oregon to introduce staff and share information about Energy Trust's work and programs and understand how CTUIR would like Energy Trust to engage with the tribe.

Next Board of Trustees Meeting: 9 a.m., July 20, 2026

To view the calendar, visit <https://ctuir.org/our-government/board-of-trustees/bot-calendar/>

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Executive Director Information

The BOT approved a motion to sign a letter designating Chair Brigham and Trustee Lisa Ganuelas as primary delegate and alternate, respectively, and DNR Director Eric Quaempts as lead technical staff to the State/Tribal Water Policy Forum. The delegates are authorized to represent the CTUIR in technical and policy-level discussions about the CTUIR's approved priorities and positions.

The BOT approved to participate in nation-to-nation consultation regarding the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers' consideration of renewing a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the U.S. Army Special Operations Command (USASOC) and the old Astoria Field Office, Columbia River and Lower Willamette Project in Clatsop County, Oregon. The MOU is to let USASOC subordinate units use and occupy land, buildings, structures and related facilities pursuant to the authority granted by the original MOU.

The BOT approved pertinent DNR and Planning Department staff to participate in Franklin County's (Washington) new Comprehensive Plan "Climate" element as part of an update to the county's Comprehensive Plan and Development Regulations. A meeting is scheduled for July 14 at the Franklin County Courthouse.

The BOT approved Trustee Ganuelas to participate in the Washington Department of Ecology's "Washington's Water Future: Virtual Tribal Input Session" on July 13. Trustee Ganuleas left the meeting after the motion to attend the virtual meeting.

(This meeting recap is an effort to get BOT news to the public in a timelier manner. It is not intended to be a replacement for the official minutes of BOT meetings or any Confederated Umatilla Journal coverage.)